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Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains the proposed resource requirements for 2013 for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel.

The estimated resource requirements for 2013 for the Office amount to $4,094,500 (net of staff assessment).

The General Assembly is requested to approve the 2013 budget for the Office of the Special Envoy and to appropriate the amount of $4,094,500 net of staff assessment ($4,313,300 gross) under the procedures provided for in its resolution 41/213.

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I. Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel

($4,094,500)

Background, mandate and objective

1. During the general debate of the General Assembly held in 2012, the Secretary-General hosted a meeting of Member States focused on bringing attention to the deteriorating humanitarian and security situation in the Sahel region. There was broad agreement among Member States, including members of the Security Council, that the situation in the Sahel posed a threat to international peace and security and must be addressed in a comprehensive manner.

2. Accordingly, in October 2012 the Secretary-General appointed a Special Envoy for the Sahel to develop and oversee the implementation of an integrated strategy for addressing the root causes of insecurity in the region, particularly under the four pillars of security, governance, humanitarian aid and development. Ensuring respect for human rights is recognized as an issue cutting across all four pillars. For the period from October to 31 December 2012, the requirements for the Special Envoy were funded from extrabudgetary resources. For the initial period in 2013, the requirements for the Special Envoy are being funded through a commitment authority under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 66/249, on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2012-2013, which the Secretary-General certifies as relating to the maintenance of peace and security.

3. In its resolution 2071 (2012), the Security Council welcomed the appointment of the Special Envoy, stating that he should mobilize international efforts for the Sahel, coordinate the implementation of the United Nations integrated strategy on the Sahel and engage actively in defining the parameters of a comprehensive solution to the Malian crisis.

4. In developing and implementing the integrated strategy, the Special Envoy has commenced consultations with key stakeholders, including Governments of the region, regional organizations, civil society, bilateral and multilateral partners, including international financial institutions, and United Nations actors deployed on the ground. In coordination with national actors, the Special Envoy is analysing the key challenges in the region and has commenced the process of mobilizing resources for local development efforts and capacity-building in critical areas, such as border control.

5. The planning horizon for the Office of the Special Envoy is two years starting in January 2013, including continued and concurrent work on: (a) the development and refinement of the strategy through extensive consultation; (b) the mobilization of resources to address key challenges facing the region; (c) the coordination of international support around key challenges in the region; and (d) the provision of support to local mechanisms in order to sustain the fundamental and structural changes necessary for long-term stability.

6. On the basis of the four pillars of the strategy, the Governments of the region and United Nations country teams in their respective countries will continue the work of the Office after its mandate has been fulfilled.

Cooperation with other entities

7. Substantive support and administrative support for the Office of the Special Envoy are provided by the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Field Support, respectively. While implementing his mandate, the Special Envoy and his Office will continue to consult and coordinate activities with the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), the United Nations Office in Mali (UNOM), Resident Coordinators on the ground, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (in line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

8. The Office of the Special Envoy is co-located with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), based in Rome, with the latter providing, on a reimbursable basis, the requisite logistical and infrastructure support on-site. This is complemented by services rendered by the Global Service Centre at Brindisi, Italy. Economies of scale are realized by using the existing service capacity, expertise and information and communications technology network of the Global Service Centre and FAO.

9. In carrying out its mandate in the Sahel region, the Office of the Special Envoy will leverage the existing logistical and administrative capabilities of the regional United Nations presence (UNOWA and UNOM, as well as UNDP) in the provision of critical support and coordination.

Performance information

10. The Secretary-General appointed his Special Envoy for the Sahel in October 2012. The Office of the Special Envoy was established in Rome in December 2012. Therefore, no performance indicators for 2012 are available.

Planning assumptions for 2013

11. If the United Nations integrated strategy on the Sahel is to be effective, leadership of the process on the part of the Governments of the region is paramount. The principle of national ownership will, therefore, be the foundation of the strategy.

12. The readiness of international donors to work together in supporting the countries of the Sahel as part of a coordinated approach will be critical to the implementation of the strategy. The security situation on the ground must permit the implementation of major efforts under the strategy's four pillars. The primary responsibility in providing a secure environment lies with the Governments of the region.

13. Support for the alleviation of humanitarian crises caused by natural disasters or conflict will remain a priority. Thus, focusing on and promoting longer-term development will depend on the extent of humanitarian requirements in the region. Furthermore, attention and resources drawn to development will, in the long run, alleviate vulnerability to natural disasters and conflict, which give rise to humanitarian crises.

14. In order to further develop the strategy, consultations will be needed with Government officials, multilateral events will be held in cooperation with regional organizations and the international community, coordination meetings will be held with key United Nations actors, and conferences featuring civil society groups, religious and tribal leaders, women, youth and academia will be required.

15. Following consultations, key challenges affecting the Sahel as a region will be identified, after which resources, expertise and political will in four spheres (Governments of the region, the international community, the United Nations system and the people of the Sahel) will need to be mobilized to address each of the key challenges.

16. The mobilization of resources for this purpose will be achieved through consultations with key donor countries and meetings with major multilateral financial institutions. Resource generation will target both financial and in-kind assistance under an action fund for the Sahel, which will act as a framework for matching needs with resources.

17. The support arrangements for the Office of the Special Envoy combine the global field support strategy and a cooperation and service agreement with a partner United Nations agency (FAO). The on-site support component of the Office in Rome is kept at a minimum, with most logistical and administrative services outsourced either to the Global Service Centre or to FAO, with a view to optimizing service delivery and minimizing cost.

18. In line with the global field support strategy, the Global Service Centre has been delegated the authority to manage the financial and human resources and property of the Office of the Special Envoy. The Centre provides budget allotment management, administers recruitment and contracts with respect to Office staff and external personnel, maintains the financial accounts of the Office, processes payments, prepares monthly and annual financial statements, and provides support for travel, visa and protocol services, diplomatic pouch, United Nations e-mail, mobile devices and the information and communications technology service desk.

19. Within the framework of a comprehensive memorandum of understanding, FAO provides to the Office of the Special Envoy, on a reimbursable basis, furnished office space, security services, premises maintenance and utilities, computer equipment and related maintenance, and access to telephone and information technology networks, Internet, stationery and office supplies. In addition to the daily requirements, FAO also assists the Office with ad hoc services, such as conference and videoconferencing facilities, interpretation and transport.

20. The objective, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement of the Office of the Special Envoy are presented below.

Objective: To achieve fundamental and long-term improvement in peace and security in the Sahel by supporting the Governments and people of the region in addressing the root causes of the crisis through long-term, sustainable initiatives and coordination of the efforts of the international community to this end

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved governance through fundamental governance reforms to allow for the long-term sustainability of security, governance and development efforts	(a) Agreement by all Governments of the region to launch governance reform initiatives *Performance measures* Estimate 2012: not applicable Target 2013: 1 initiative by at least 1 Government of the region
(b) Improved security cooperation among the Governments of the region leading to enhanced border control	(b) (i) Establishment of a security forum that allows for periodic interaction among the Governments of the region *Performance measures* Estimate 2012: not applicable Target 2013: Achieved (ii) Formulation of a regional strategy on border control *Performance measures* Estimate 2012: not applicable Target 2013: Achieved
(c) Improved humanitarian situation in the region	(c) Decreased number of people who are vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition as measured by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs *Performance measures* Estimate 2012: not applicable Target 2013: 20 per cent decrease
(d) Initiation of long-term development projects in the region	(d) (i) Establishment of a global fund to act as a platform for matching needs with resources *Performance measures* Estimate 2012: not applicable Target 2013: Achieved

(ii) Initiation of regional infrastructure projects

Performance measures

2012: not applicable

Target 2013: 1 project

Outputs

- 3 reports to the Security Council outlining the progress made on the formulation and concurrent implementation of the strategy, donor contributions to humanitarian operations in the region, infrastructure projects and regional development activities
- 15 meetings with Governments of the region and other relevant stakeholders to encourage governance reforms
- 2 conferences on major issues affecting the Sahel
- Communiqué outlining cooperation between Governments of the Sahel on border control
- 10 meetings with Governments of the region to encourage security cooperation
- 1 conference on security cooperation between Governments of the region
- 10 meetings with humanitarian actors in the region to ascertain where the Special Envoy could help to enhance humanitarian efforts
- 1 regional conference on infrastructure development
- 2 regional conferences on resource management

External factors

21. The objectives of the mandate of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel are expected to be achieved, provided that the Governments of the region agree to undertake governance and structural reforms and that the international community, especially key donor States and members of the Security Council, provide support for the efforts of the Special Envoy.

Table 1
Resource requirements
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	1 January to 31 December 2012			*Requirements for 2013*			*Variance analysis 2012-2013*
	Appropriation	*Estimated expenditure*	*Variance underexpenditure (overexpenditure)*	*Total requirements*	*Net requirements*	*Non-recurrent requirements*	*Variance*
Category of expenditure	*(1)*	*(2)*	*(3)=(1)-(2)*	*(4)*	*(5)=(4)-(3)*	*(6)*	*(7)=(4)-(1)*
Civilian personnel costs	–	–	–	1 817.1	1 817.1	–	1 817.1
Operational costs	–	–	–	2 277.4	2 277.4	80.6	2 277.4
Total requirements	**–**	**–**	**–**	**4 094.5**	**4 094.5**	**80.6**	**4 094.5**

22. The estimated requirements for the Office of the Special Envoy for the one-year period ending on 31 December 2013 amount to $4,094,500 (net of staff assessment) and provide for civilian personnel costs for a staffing complement comprising 19 positions, including 1 position of Special Envoy (Under-Secretary-General) and 18 positions for the Office (1 D-2, 3 P-5, 5 P-4, 4 P-3, 1 P-2 and 4 General Service (Other level)), for a 12-month period ($1,817,100) as well as related operational costs. The civilian personnel costs take into account phased recruitment for the positions, as well as a 10 per cent vacancy rate for Professional positions and a 5 per cent vacancy rate for General Service positions.

23. The operational costs ($2,277,400) comprise provisions for consultants ($790,700), official travel ($674,700), facilities and infrastructure ($195,800), ground transportation ($49,400), air transportation ($126,000), communications ($61,100) and information technology ($99,200), as well as other supplies, services and equipment ($280,500).

24. Pending the preparation and submission of the present budget proposal, the initial requirements for the Office of the Special Envoy, starting on 1 January 2013, are being met through a commitment authority under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 66/249 in the amount of $1,840,300, which will be reversed following the decision of the Assembly on the present proposal.

Extrabudgetary resources

25. It is not projected that the Office of the Special Envoy will have extrabudgetary resources in 2013.

Table 2
Staffing requirements

	Professional and higher categories									*General Service and related categories*				*National staff*			
	USG	*ASG*	*D-2*	*D-1*	*P-5*	*P-4*	*P-3*	*P-2*	***Total***	*Field/ Security Service*	*General Service (PL)*	*General Service (OL)*	***Total international***	*National Professional Officer*	*Local level*	*United Nations Volunteer*	***Grand total***
Approved 2012	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Proposed 2013	1	–	1	–	3	5	4	1	**15**	–	–	4	**19**	–	–	–	**19**
Change	**1**	**–**	**1**	**–**	**3**	**5**	**4**	**1**	**15**	**–**	**–**	**4**	**19**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**19**

26. The proposed staffing complement includes 15 substantive positions and 4 support positions, of which 14 positions are located in Rome (12 substantive and 2 support positions), 2 positions are located in Brindisi (2 support positions), and 3 positions are located in New York (3 substantive positions, to provide backstopping).

27. The substantive component of the Office based in Rome comprises, in addition to the Special Envoy (Under-Secretary-General), who is engaged on a "when actually employed" basis, five positions in the Office of the Head of Office (1 Head of Office (D-2), 1 Public Information Officer (P-4), 1 Special Assistant/Humanitarian Affairs Officer (P-3), 1 Associate Public Information Officer (P-2), and 1 Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level))), three positions in the Strategy Formulation

and Implementation Team (1 Head of Strategy Formulation and Implementation Team (P-5), 1 Political Affairs Officer (P-4) and 1 Reporting Officer (P-3)) and three positions in the Political Team (1 Head of Political Team (P-5), 1 Political Affairs Officer (P-4), and 1 Reporting Officer (P-3)).

28. The substantive staffing complement of the Office also includes three positions (1 Senior Political Affairs Officer (P-5), 1 Political Affairs Officer (P-4) and 1 Political Affairs Officer (P-3)) based in New York to enable the Department of Political Affairs to provide backstopping support to the Office of the Special Envoy.

29. The support component of the Office comprises two positions in the Administration and Support Team based in Rome (1 Administrative Officer (P-4) and 1 Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level))), and two positions based in the Global Service Centre at Brindisi (2 Administrative Assistant (General Service (Other level))).

II. Action required of the General Assembly

30. **The General Assembly is requested:**

(a) **To approve the 2013 budget for the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Sahel in the amount of $4,094,500 net ($4,313,300 gross);**

(b) **To appropriate, under the procedures provided for in paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213, an amount of $4,094,500 under section 3, Political affairs, and an amount of $218,800 under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.**